

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. Claims 3-5 are withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 1, 2 and 6 are amended. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the personal interview conducted on July 2, 2003. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Election/Restriction

Applicants request that upon allowance of either generic claim 1 or 2, withdrawn claims 3-5 be rejoined and allowed.

The Abstract

The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to for exceeding 150 words. The Abstract is amended in reply to the objection. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the objection to the Abstract be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Although the Office Action, at page 3, rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants understand that claims 3-5 are withdrawn from consideration and claims 1, 2 and 6 are rejected as indicated on the Office Action summary. Therefore, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,827,143 to Monahan et al. ("Monahan") in view of U.S. Patent 2,471,969 to Meyer and U.S. Patent 1,662,511 to Geist.

As discussed during the personal interview, Applicants assert that the combination of references does not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in amended claims 1, 2 and 6. For example, the combination of references does not disclose or suggest an engine auxiliary unit driving equipment for transmitting an engine driving force from a crank pulley fixed to an engine crankshaft to a plurality of engine auxiliary units, one of which is an

alternator for a vehicle, comprising *inter alia* a unitary driven poly-V pulley, which is provided at least in the alternator, having at least 6 grooves extending in a circumferential direction and a plurality of walls between the grooves and a poly-V belt having a top surface and a plurality of projections extending in parallel in a longitudinal direction so as to respectively engage with the grooves of the driven poly-V pulley, wherein the poly-V belt is composed of a plurality of pieces substantially divided in an axial direction of the driven poly-V pulley so that each piece of the poly-V belt has more than 2 and less than 6 of the projections and each of the walls is lower than the top surface so that side surfaces of the projections adjacent to each other can directly face each other, as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action also alleges that it would have been well within the level of skill of one of ordinary skill in the art to alter the respective weights per unit length of the poly-V belt, "since such a modification would have involved a mere change in size of a component" because a change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

Applicants assert that providing a poly-V belt having respective weights per unit length that are different from one another is not a mere change in a component size and thus is not obvious. §2144.04 of the MPEP addresses changes in size/proportion between claimed subject matter and the prior art. §2144.04 (IV) recites "where the only difference between the prior art and the claims was a recitation of relative dimensions of the claimed device and a device having the claimed relative dimensions would not perform differently than the prior art device, the claimed device was not patently distinct from the prior art device." Gardner v. TEC Systems, Inc., 725 Fed. 2d 1338, 220 USPQ 777 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Applicants assert that claim 6 does not recite a mere difference in relative dimensions or change in size of a component as alleged in the Office Action. Rather, providing the poly-V belt with different respective weights per unit length prevents resonating of the belts at the

same frequency thereby reducing belt flap and increasing belt life (see page 7 of the specification). Accordingly, as there is no suggestion in the applied references that a difference in respective weights per unit length of the pieces of the poly-V belt would provide such a result, the claimed feature is not rendered obvious as alleged in the Office Action.

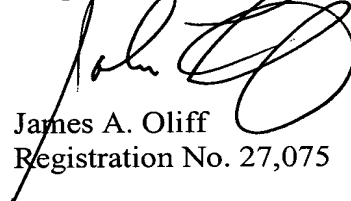
As agreed during the personal interview, the amendments to claim 1 distinguish over the applied references of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request a rejection of claims 1, 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2 and 6 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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